

GASCO, 2nd Biological Opinion Amendment, Email from Munn/NMFS to Sean Sheldrake 10/20/2005

Sean:

EPA has requested an extension of the in-water work window for the Gasco project. This project is ongoing in the lower Willamette River; the in-water work window as conditioned in the biological opinion closes on October 31. EPA and the applicant have requested extending the work period for this project until November 5.

This extension request is approved by NMFS for the following reasons:

- 1) The activities are restricted to placing clean fill material over the fringe area surrounding the removal/dredge prism.
- 2) The effect to listed salmonids of the placement of the fill material will be limited to exposure to increased turbidity (i.e., no increased risk of contaminant exposure).
- 3) The effect of demobilization now, remobilization in late spring, and potential for release of contaminants from the uncapped area in the interim would be greater than working five days beyond the work window.
- 4) The contractor and applicant have made good efforts to complete work within the window by working long days and working weekends.

Nancy Munn, Ph.D.

National Marine Fisheries Service
503-231-6269

Email from NWN (Carl Stivers, Anchor Environmental) 10/20/2005

Nancy –

As agreed by EPA, the silt curtain will be removed after the primary dredge area cap has been placed. Once disturbance from the primary cap placement has settled, the silt curtain will be removed slowly. The procedure will be to first loosen some connections and let water “leak” out slowly overnight. Then the panels will be removed slowly one by one in the next day. Fringe capping will proceed after that and into the extension period as described below.

Thanks.

Carl

Carl Stivers wrote:

Nancy –

As agreed by EPA, the silt curtain will be removed after the primary dredge area cap has been placed. Once disturbance from the primary cap placement has settled, the silt curtain will be removed slowly. The procedure will be to first loosen some connections and let water “leak” out slowly overnight. Then the panels will be removed slowly one by one in the next day. Fringe capping will proceed after that and into the extension period as described below.

Thanks.

Carl

-----Original Message-----

From: nancy munn [<mailto:nancy.munn@noaa.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2005 10:05 AM

To: Carl Stivers

Cc: Sheldrake.Sean@epamail.epa.gov; rwadsworth@parametrix.com; rjw@nwnatural.com; Ryan Barth; John Verduin; Ed Berschinski; Tim Stone; Patty Dost (Schwabe)

Subject: Re: Extension Request

When will the curtain be removed?

Nancy

Carl Stivers wrote:

Sean -

We are requesting an extension for work beyond October 31 to November 5. The rationale for the request is that we had a very tight schedule to start with that included a specific amount of dredging and capping. EPA has directed us to extend the fringe cap to the outer containment configuration. The original fringe cap area was 46,000 sf, and this new requirement adds an additional 59,000 sf of fringe capping. Thus, more than twice the originally expected amount of time for fringe capping is needed to comply with this requirement.

We are expecting to complete the pilot capping and originally designed fringe capping on October 31. This includes working longer days and working over the weekends. We will need an additional five calendar days to complete the additional fringe capping, resulting in a finish date of November 5. During the extension time we will be placing fringe sand cap material around the margins of the site. This will require one crane barge and material barges to be present in the site area placing this material. No other major construction equipment or activities will be needed.

We will need a written approval of this request from NOAA Fisheries and EPA before October 31st to keep the project moving forward in the extension period without further delay. Thanks much for your consideration.

Carl